

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Resolution 117, submitted earlier today by Senator JEFFORDS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 117) congratulating the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, today I am submitting, along with Senators KENNEDY, DEWINE, and WELLSTONE, a Senate resolution to congratulate the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service on its 50th anniversary.

The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service [FMCS] was created in 1947, as an independent agency, by the Labor-Management Relations Act [Taft-Hartley]. FMCS was established by Congress to resolve collective bargaining disputes which threaten the free flow of commerce and to promote the development of sound and stable labor-management relations.

The primary focus of the agency's work is on labor-management relations, mediating contract negotiation disputes between companies and the unions representing their employees, and providing training in cooperative processes to help build better labor-management relations. FMCS also was authorized under the Dispute Resolution Act of 1990 to share its expertise in all aspects of mediation, facilitation, and conflict resolution with Federal, State, and local governmental bodies and agencies. In addition to dispute mediation services, FMCS provides preventive mediation services, administers a grants program which provides funding for the creation and operation of joint labor-management committees, and also provides an arbitration service, when disputes arise between the parties over the interpretation of their collective bargaining agreement.

For 50 years, the men and women of the FMCS have worked tirelessly, and successfully, to accomplish the mission of the Agency, the promotion of "sound and stable industrial peace and the advancement of the general welfare, health and safety of the Nation.* * *". Our resolution recognizes, and commends, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service for its 50 years of dedicated service to the Nation.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at this point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 117) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 117

Whereas the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (referred to in this resolution as the "FMCS") was created as an independent agency of the United States by the Labor-Management Relations Act of 1947;

Whereas for 50 years, the FMCS has been instrumental in promoting the United States policy that "sound and stable industrial peace and the advancement of the general welfare, health, and safety of the Nation and of the best interest of employers and employees can most satisfactorily be secured through settlement of issues between employers and employees through the processes of collective bargaining between employers and representatives of their employees";

Whereas the FMCS has provided mediation services to labor and management by assisting them to settle disputes and reach agreement in collective bargaining negotiations, thereby helping to prevent or minimize work stoppages that disrupt the free flow of commerce and to promote sound and stable labor-management relations;

Whereas the FMCS has provided arbitration services by administering a roster of qualified, private arbitrators to resolve disputes arising under collective bargaining agreements, thereby minimizing disruptions to commerce and preserving labor-management peace;

Whereas the FMCS has encouraged joint initiatives designed to assist employers and the representatives of their employees explore better ways to manage differences and to work together for mutual benefit and has awarded grants to promote labor-management cooperation and to encourage innovative workplace practices, thereby improving economic performance and enhancing economic development, employment security, and organizational effectiveness;

Whereas the FMCS has provided dispute resolution services to government agencies as an alternative to costly litigation or formal rulemaking, thereby enabling less adversarial and more participative approaches to governing;

Whereas the FMCS has helped management, labor, and government leaders from many nations throughout the world to establish sound industrial relations and conflict resolution systems and practices, thereby promoting sound economic development and democratic principles; and

Whereas the FMCS has developed the art, science, and practice of conflict resolution as a means to improve the lives of the working men and women of this Nation and the relationships between labor and management and between others in our society, to sustain democratic institutions, and to strengthen the American economy, thereby making an important contribution to our Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service for 50 years of dedicated and important service to the Nation; and

(2) congratulates the FMCS as it commemorates its fiftieth anniversary.

CONDITIONAL SEQUENTIAL REFERRAL—H.R. 1658

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if and when

the Senate Committee on Commerce reports H.R. 1658, a bill to reauthorize and amend the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act, it be referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works for a period not to exceed 20 session days of the Senate; and that if the bill has not been reported by the Committee on Environment and Public Works by that time, it be automatically discharged and placed on the Senate Calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PASSAGE VITIATED AND MEASURE INDEFINITELY POST- PONED—S. 39

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the passage S. 39 be vitiated and the bill be indefinitely postponed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1997

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 3. I further ask that on Wednesday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted, and the Senate immediately resume consideration of amendment No. 1057, the Harkin amendment, to the Agricultural appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NICKLES. I also ask unanimous consent that from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. the Senate stand in recess in order to meet for the weekly policy meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. NICKLES. For the information of all Members, tomorrow the Senate will immediately resume consideration of the Harkin amendment to the Agriculture appropriations bill. Under the previous order, there will be 20 minutes for debate on the amendment equally divided between Senator COCHRAN and Senator HARKIN. Following the use or yielding back of time, a vote will occur on or in relation to the Harkin amendment at approximately 9:50 tomorrow morning. Following disposition of the Harkin amendment, the Senate will resume consideration of Senate bill 1061, the Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

Members can expect additional amendments to the Labor-HHS appropriations bill to be debated and voted on throughout Wednesday's session of the Senate. It is hoped that action on the Labor-HHS appropriations bill will be completed during Wednesday's session of the Senate.

As always, Members will be notified as to when additional rollcall votes can be expected.